

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COORDINATION WITH UNDP

REF: STATE 032728

1. USAID REPRESENTATIVE AND UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE MET ON MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS POINTS RAISED REFTEL AND OTHER THEMES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT, USAID- UNDP RELATIONS IN URUGUAY HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN GOOD AND MEETING SERVED TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING COMMUNICATION.

2. MEETING OPENED BY USAID REPRESENTATIVE AND UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE EACH GIVING BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THEIR PROGRAMS. IN VIEW OF ALREADY EXISTING FAMILIARITY WITH EACH OTHER'S PROGRAMS, THESE DESCRIPTIONS WERE BRIEF, TOUCHING ONLY ON MAJOR ISSUES. UNDP REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED COUNTRY PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW BY UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN JUNE AND MENTIONED THAT TWO MAJOR AREAS OF UNDP INTEREST ARE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS. USAID REPRESENTATIVE THEN OUTLINED PROGRAM INDICATING THAT THERE ARE POSSIBLE AREAS OF INCREASED USAID- UNDP COORDINATION IN FIELDS OF EXPORT PROMOTION AND AGRICULTURE.

3. DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC POINTS OUTLINED IN THE REFTEL AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE DIRECTION AND EMPHASIS OF THE UNDP PROGRAM HAS NOT CON-
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SIDZSIWLE CHANGED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. MANY OLDER PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO EXIST OR ARE JUST NOW BEING PHASED OUT AND, IN GENERAL, THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE ADMITTED THAT THE GOU HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DESIGN OR IDENTIFY ANY NEW INTERESTING PROJECT DIRECTIONS. WHILE THE UNDP RECENTLY APPROVED A PROJECT TO HELP THE GOU SET UP AN EXPORT INFORMATION CENTER, THE BASE INSTITUTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS PROVING SHAKY AND THE UNDP IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CHANCES OF PROJECT SUCCESS. THE SAME IS TRUE WITH A PENDING PROJECT IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. IN ADDITION, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, A NUMBER OF OLDER PROJECTS ARE EITHER MOVING ALONG SLOWLY AND ARE NOT ACCOMPLISHING A GREAT DEAL OR ARE BEING DISCONTINUED ALTOGETHER SUCH AS A PROJECT WITH THE URUGUAYAN CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE.

ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE, THE RES. REP. SEEMED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A NEW PROJECT TO ASSIST URUGUAYAN FISHERIES BUT SINCE THIS PROJECT HAS RECENTLY BEGUN, A GOOD EVALUATION CANNOT YET BE MADE. AN INTERESTING SIDE NOTE WAS THE MENTION BY THE RES. REP. THAT 15 PERCENT OF THE \$10 MILLION UNDP PLANNING FIGURE FOR URUGUAY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN SET ASIDE WITH THE HOPE THAT SOME BETTER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES WILL ARISE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE UNDP DOES NOT SEEM EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ITS CURRENT PROGRAMS.

ON THE USAID SIDE, THE USAID REP. STRESSED THAT THE MISSION HAS ENCOUNTERED A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE UNDP. PRIMARILY DUE TO LACK OF PRIORITY DEFINITION BY THE GOU, WE HAVE MADE NO RECENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT INITIATIVES AND OUR ONGOING PROJECTS HAVE HAD VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS. THE USAID HAS HAD LIMITED SUCCESS IN A TAX PROJECT WHERE A UNDP ADVISOR, WORKING IN A RELAFD AREA, WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNSUCCESSFUL AND IS BEING WITHDRAWN BY THE UNDP.

AT PRESENT, THE USAID'S PRIMARY PROJECT IS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR; AN AREA WHERE JOINT USAID- UNDP COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE.

B) THE FOLLOWING STEPS WERE AGREED UPON AS FIRST INITIATIVES TOWARD INCREASED CONTACT: 1) MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE USAID REP. AND HIS STAFF AND THE UNDP RES. REP. AND HIS STAFF; 2) A MEETING WAS ARRANGED BETWEEN THE LOCAL FAO REPRESENTATIVE AND THE USAID RDO TO DISCUSS BETTER COORDINATION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND A MEETING OF USAID AND UNDP AGRI-

CULTURAL TECHNICIANS IN APRIL; 3) ARRANGEMENT FOR INCREASED EXCHANGE OF REPORTS BY USAID AND UNDP TECHNICIANS WORKING IN URUGUAY; AND 4) INCREASED USAID- UNDP PARTICIPATION IN EARLIER STAGES OF PROJECT PREPARATION.

C) AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT ONE PRIORITY OF BOTH UNDP AND USAID SHOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN PLANNING AND COORDINATION FUNCTIONS OF GOU PLANNING OFFICE (OPP). ALL PROJECT REQUESTS TO UNDP ARE CHANNELLED THROUGH THAT OFFICE AND RECENTLY THE USAID HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THE ROLE OF OPP IN USAID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLANNING. BOTH UNDP AND USAID ARE DISCUSSING COMPLEMENTARY T. A. PROJECTS WITH OPP AND BOTH THE USAID AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO CAREFULLY COORDINATE ALL EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

IN GENERAL, THE MISSION FEELS THAT COORDINATION WITH UNDP HAS BEEN GOOD IN THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE FUTURE.
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